

Pamph.  
Anthrop.  
Archaeol.  
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# PUBLIC DINNER

GIVEN TO

MR. C. ROACH SMITH, AT NEWPORT,  
<sup>III</sup>  
ISLE OF WIGHT,

ON

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28<sup>TH</sup>.

AND

# CONVERSAZIONE

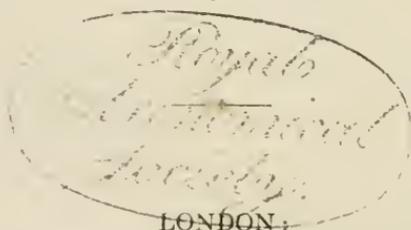
AT

RYDE, ISLE OF WIGHT,

ON

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29<sup>TH</sup>.

1855.



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MR. ROACH SMITH having intimated his intention to attend a public exhibition, in the Isle of Wight, of the Anglo-Saxon antiquities discovered by Mr. George Hillier, his friends in the Island determined on inviting him to a Public Dinner at Newport, on Tuesday the 28th of August; and to a *Conversazione* at Ryde, on the 29th. Mr. Hillier having suspended the excavations on Chessell Down for a short time, resolved on resuming them on this occasion, and on exhibiting at the same time the more portable of the antiquities discovered in the spring of the year. Mr. Roach Smith was accompanied in Newport by a few of his London antiquarian colleagues, with whom he had been long and more immediately associated. These were Mr. Thomas Wright, Mr. Frederick William Fairholt, Mr. William Chaffers, Jun., Mr. George Richard Corner, and Mr. Apsley Pellatt, M.P.

Chessell Down is situate about seven miles west of Newport, near Brooke and Shalcombe. An ancient road, now seldom used, runs on the top of the long ridge of down land from Carisbrook to Freshwater, divisions of which are known as Bowcombe, Gallibury, Mottiston,

Chessell, Brooke, Compton, and Afton Downs; but the turnpike which leads to Yarmouth and Freshwater, is the only road which a stranger could take with safety. Chessell Down faces that of Shalcombe, from which it is separated by a narrow valley. It is inferior in height to that of Shalcombe, and its slope is more gradual. The sides of these downs opposite each other are each marked with a chalk-pit. Upon the ground above the pit on Chessell Down, and running a little way down its western side, is the cemetery excavated by Mr. Hillier. It must have been formerly of greater extent, as some of the graves are upon the very edge of the pit; and within the memory of man skeletons and weapons have been picked down into the pit by the chalk-diggers. Several of the graves were excavated by the late Mr. Dennett, who, at first, entertained the notion that the bodies here interred were those of persons slain in battle. This very popular and erroneous idea, it is believed, he subsequently abandoned. Mr. Dennett opened a tumulus upon Shalcombe Down; and he records the discovery, a long time since, of the two circular silver gilt fibulæ set with garnets which were in his possession: the grave in which these and other objects had been laid, was undermined by men digging for marl.\* Without doubt valuable remains have from time to time been destroyed by persons ignorant of their archaeological value; in proof of which we may cite Mr. Dennett's story about the helmet with letters upon it which nobody could read; it was probably a bronze dish inscribed with runes. The downs in this as in other parts of the Island are dotted with tumuli of periods anterior to the Saxon. Many of these have, unfortunately, been rifled, and pro-

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\* Mr. Hillier thinks that these fibulæ came from Chessell and not from Shalcombe Down.

bably in comparatively recent times. The Rev. Edmund Kell states,\* that several barrows (in a group of seven barrows,) upon Brooke Down were opened by a party consisting of Captain Jervis, of the Shropshire Militia, Mr. James Howe, and others; but that no account of the exploration had ever been given to the public.

Previous to the publication of Mr. Dennett's researches (communicated through Mr. Roach Smith to the Congress of the British Archæological Association at Winchester), it does not appear that any notice of similar discoveries had ever been published; it is probable that no such discovery had ever been made; or if made, had not been understood. As the Isle of Wight holds a rather conspicuous place in the scanty annals of the Anglo-Saxon period, the results of the researches of Mr. Dennett, and the more extended investigations of Mr. Hillier, have produced materials highly illustrative of the social condition of the early Saxon Islanders: the people who, as Bede tells us, were, up to the latter half of the seventh century, when Ceadwall and his brother Mull took possession of the Island, entirely given to idolatry; the people whose land to the extent of 300 families out of 1200, the computed measure of the Island, as the same historian tells us, was given by Ceadwall to Bishop Wilfrid, from which period must date the introduction by fire and sword of the faith of peace and goodwill.

Mr. Hillier and Mr. Thomas Wright left Newport at an early hour to superintend and direct the excavations of the day. About noon a considerable number of visitors had arrived; and as three or four graves had been discovered, and were already in part opened, their complete

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\* Journal of the British Archæological Association, vol. vi. p. 454.

exploration was proceeded with. The cemetery presented the appearance of a newly dug and well-filled churchyard; the earth and chalk with which the numerous graves previously opened had been replenished, marking their outlines clearly and contrasting with the green sward of the down. No mounds had indicated the position of those graves: but a slight irregularity of the ground seemed to the observing eye of Mr. Hillier to shew the boundary of the cemetery. That there had been originally mounds or some other marks over the graves there can be no doubt. Mr. Hillier is of opinion, that stones stood at the head or feet of some. Slabs of Compton-bay stone, brought from the sea-side, were upon the graves of several, and in such positions as to induce him to consider they had been used as the modern head-stones; but they were perfectly uninscribed; no elegy, no name told who were the tenants of those lonely tombs, or gave the brief history of their life and death, such as at the present day is afforded even to the lowliest; and yet some of them must have been of consequence, of wealth, and perhaps of station; witness the five brooches upon the skeleton of the lady; the decorated sword by the side of the warrior. It remained for the archæologist alone to assign these mouldered remains to their proper epoch and nation; to write their epitaph in his description and explanation. To him alone these relics of the grave speak with an intelligible tongue; it is he alone who stands the interpreter between the living and the dead.

The graves laid open this day were not without interest even to the antiquary; while to the numerous visitors a novel and intellectual excitement was supplied in the gradual development of the skeletons, and the weapons and ornaments which for twelve centuries had kept them company. The shield of the warrior had been placed over his

body; his spear by his side; his girdle round his waist to which hung a knife; a woman's finger-bone still retained the faithful wedding-ring, of spiral silver; and upon her waistband was a small silver cross-shaped stud, in form of what is called the Maltese cross. In another grave was an earthen drinking-cup resembling one found in the same cemetery by Mr. Dennett. The process of finding and opening the graves of antiquity, whether they be Celtic, or Roman, or Saxon, is slow, tedious, and uncertain: it is the specific work of the enthusiastic antiquary, who, in wet and cold, in heat and in sunshine, early and late, labours alone, content to be alone. He would not be molested; he would not be misunderstood; neither would he have participators in a failure. He, therefore, who would venture to carry on such researches in the presence of a crowd of spectators must be bold and confident of success. Such an explorer was Mr. Hillier. He never contemplated the possibility of a refusal of the graves to give up their treasures; he dug fearlessly and composedly, and would have regarded a defeat with the same abhorrence as nature regards a vacuum.

But, under any circumstances, the company brought together on this agreeable occasion were ensured rational recreation. Mr. Hillier had ready, in the background of the scene, the ornaments and other smaller objects discovered in the spring of the year; and the Hon. A'Court Holmes, the lord of the land, who, with that liberality which marks the man of mind, had encouraged Mr. Hillier in his researches, had provided a substantial and elegant lunch, spread out upon the grass in the pit below the cemetery. From these happy combinations, aided by a calm, warm, and cloudless day, the attendants at the excavations upon Chessell Down, on August 28th, 1855, en-

joyed the intellectual profit of the lecture-room combined with the innocent hilarity of a "pic-nic." At the termination of the repast, a vote of thanks was given to Mr. Holmes, at the suggestion of Mr. Roach Smith, heartily seconded by the company.\* The Saxon remains alluded to were then exhibited, and Mr. Wright, at the request of some of the company, undertook an *extempore* lecture on them, which was listened to with marked attention and gratification.

The company assembled on the Down, included the Hon. A'Court Holmes, Mrs. Holmes, and family; Sir John and Lady Simeon, and family; the Rev. H. W. Wilberforce; Sir Charles and Lady Fellowes; the Rev. Henry Freeman; Mr. J. H. Hearn, Mrs. Hearn, and family; Mr. Barrow, Mr. Cramer, and Mr. Wavell, of Ryde; Mr. J. A. Barton; Mr. John Lock; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Way; Mr. and Mrs. Wright, and Mrs. Foquett; Mr. Fairholt, Mr. Corner, Mr. Chaffers, Mr. Apsley Pellatt, Mr. Roach Smith, Mr. Gissett, and many of the neighbouring gentry.

The Dinner was given at the Bugle Inn, at Newport, at seven o'clock. Sir John Simeon presided, and was supported by the Hon. A'Court Holmes and his son and heir Mr. William Leonard Holmes A'Court; the Mayor of Newport, Mr. C. W. Estcourt, supported by the ex-Mayor, Mr. Francis Pittis, acting as Vice-President. The company included, the guest, Mr. Roach Smith, Mr. George Hillier, Mr. Wright, F.S.A., Mr. Corner, F.S.A., Mr. Apsley Pellatt, M.P., Mr. Fairholt, F.S.A., Mr. Chaffers, F.S.A., Mr. Thomas Faulkner, F.S.A., the Rev. E. D. Scott, (Vicar of Carisbrooke), the Rev. G. H.

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\* It should be mentioned, that both Mr. Holmes, and Sir John Simeon, had signified their wish to receive the company at their mansions, in the event of unpropitious weather.

Conner, Professor Griffiths, F.G.S. (Brecon), Mr. John Snell, Mr. John White (Cowes), Mr. Robert White (Northwood), Mr. Arthur Sanders (Fern Hill), Mr. John Henry Hearn, Mr. Thomas Dashwood, Jun. (Ryde), Mr. Benjamin Barrow (Ryde), Mr. Cramer (Ryde), Mr. Thomas Robinson, Mr. Richard Tucker, Mr. Benjamin Cotton, Mr. John Wavell (Ryde), Mr. S. Duer (Ravensbourne Park, Lewisham), Mr. Adam Thompson (Bond-street), Mr. J. Alfred Curtiss (12, Great Marlborough Street), Mr. John Roach (Perreton), Mr. Frederick Roach (Arreton), Mr. John Lock (Nodehill), Mr. John Adkins Barton (Barton Village), Mr. Robert Jacobs (Haseley), Mr. William Tucker Stratton, Mr. Edward Wilkins, etc.

After the cloth was removed, the Chairman said he would now lay upon the table numerous letters which had been received from persons of local influence, and from gentlemen well known for their eminence in the science of antiquities and in literature, who, from various engagements, from the short notice afforded them or from other causes, were unable to be present that evening. They all expressed regret, and the letters uniformly breathed the warmest sympathy with the object of the meeting; and, therefore, it might be considered that the writers were with them in spirit though not in person. Among them were Lord Londesborough, Lord Downes, Sir Henry Oglander, Mr. C. W. Martin (Leeds Castle), Mr. Albert Hambrough (SteePhill Castle), Sir John Boileau, Col. Vernon Harcourt, M.P., Mr. G. Atherley, Mr. C. Warne, Mr. Ll. Jewitt, Mr. Bloxam (Rugby), Mr. G. P. Joyce, Rev. E. Mc.All, Mr. Tennyson (the Poet-Laureate), Rev. W. H. Gunner, Mr. J. R. Keele, Mr. R. C. Shedden (Fairlee), Rev. J. N. Coleman, Mr. Bland, Mr. Rolfe, Mr.

Brooke, Mr. Bass, Rev. J. Le Mesurier, Captain A. S. Hammond, Mr. and Mr. W. Jacobs (Haseley), Serjeant Merewether, Deputy Lott, Mr. Cresy, Rev. T. Hugo, F.S.A., Mr. Lower, F.S.A., Mr. J. H. Glover, F.S.A., Mr. Maclean, Mr. Steuart Macnaughten, Mr. Alfred White, Dr. W. Bell, Captain Joseph Henry Jolliffe, R.M., Mr. James Yates, Rev. Dr. Bruce, Mr. James Wyatt, Mr. Waller, Captain Percy Scott, Mr. E. C. Dendy (Rouge Dragon and Earl Marshall's Secretary), Mr. H. Way, Mr. D. Way, etc.

The health of Her Majesty, Prince Albert, and the rest of the Royal Family, was drank.

The Chairman said, on the present occasion, and as the evening was advanced, he should have proposed dispensing with the toasts usually given; but, when it was considered what our fleets and army were endeavouring to achieve for us and for the cause of civilisation and humanity, it was impossible to avoid drinking the health and success of our Army and Navy.

Mr. Richard Tucker claimed leave to respond to this toast; for though he had never belonged to the fighting part of the Army, he had for many years been attached to that department of it the duties of which were of a most responsible and important kind—the Commissariat.

The Chairman then rose and said—Gentlemen, I now beg to call your attention to the toast of the day—to that toast which expresses and concentrates in itself the whole object of our meeting. You all know that we have met for the purpose of shewing our respect for a gentleman who has done credit to us denizens of the Isle of Wight by the honour which he has, by his merits and his labours, conferred upon our island. It has been said, that a prophet has no honour in his own country; but we desire to shew that the Isle of Wight offers an exception,

and to prove that she has always in her hospitable bosom a warm and hearty welcome for her deserving sons. I have said, gentlemen, that our respected guest has conferred honour upon us and upon his native isle; and, to prove my words, I have only to cast my eyes around upon the strangers who are sitting at this board, and who come to pay their tribute of sympathy and approbation to the man whom their own high and varied attainments enable them to appreciate and to value. We see amongst us men whose scientific and literary attainments are of European, nay, of world-wide, fame, assembled here to testify by their presence to the position which our countryman has attained in the world of science and of letters: and it is to ratify their verdict, and to express our proud and gratified concurrence in it, that we are met here this evening.

Blessed as we are, gentlemen, with natural beauties and with a climate which have conferred upon our island the envied title of the 'Garden of England,' we have not contrived to grow such a fertile crop of great men as to enable us to under-value or to make light of any eminent talent or celebrity which we may happen to produce. Our catalogue of warriors, of poets, of statesmen, of those who have, by their deeds or by their writings, shed a lustre upon their age, and written their names in the proudest pages of their country's annals, is small indeed; but, if these are wanting, we have others who have been no less valuable, though less distinguished by the public gaze—men who, proceeding modestly along the quiet and secluded paths of science and of study, have materially assisted in the great work of our national development. Such men, I mean, as Sir John Cheke, of Mottiston, the first promoter of the study of Greek in England; Dr. James, the

first librarian of the great Bodleian collection ; and his no less distinguished nephew, the valuable and valued collaborator of Cotton and Selden ; and, gentlemen, I have no hesitation or misgiving in asserting, that to these names will be added, in future ages, the name of our friend and guest, Mr. Roach Smith.

There is no class of persons, devoted to literary and scientific pursuits, who have been more abused and misunderstood, than the class which devotes itself to the study of Archæology. True it is, that there have always been men, mere collectors of antiquated rubbish, the men

“ Wi’ a routh of auld nick nackets,  
Rusty airn caps, and jingling jackets,”

scuffed at by Burns, walking lumber-rooms, whose heterogeneous stock of curious but ill-assorted lore, is alike useless to themselves and to their fellow-men. These are the Moths and the Periwinkles, the favourite objects of the ridicule of our early dramatists ; and even the great Magician of the North, fond as he was of all that bore upon or tended to illustrate our early history and antiquities, could not forbear aiming the shafts of his delicate and discriminating satire at them in the person of Monk-barns. Now, gentlemen, this is a class of men who, in my humble opinion, entirely mistake the real purport and object of the study in which they are engaged.

The science of the real antiquary is not of this narrow and limited character. To him every relic, which he picks up or secures, is pregnant with instruction, as bearing upon the history or the social life or habits of some past age. To him Archæology is a species of Comparative Anatomy, which enables him to reconstruct the whole fabric of an extinct civilisation from the waifs and frag-

ments thrown up by the stream of time, much as the geologist reproduces the huge antediluvial animal from its fossil bones and scattered remains. The real antiquary is the man who, in his care for and appreciation of details, never forgets the great general objects for which alone details are valuable; while, on the other hand, the great object in which he is engaged never so far dazzles and blinds him as to induce him to neglect those details, which afford the only means of testing the truth and validity of the theories which they ought to illustrate. In addition to this, and above all, he should be a man of large and liberal mind, ready to distribute from his stores of knowledge, and to utilise them for the general advantage, with no mean envy of the success or jealousy of the discoveries of others; in a word, the honest, large-hearted, free-handed steward of Wisdom, not her grudging, close-fisted, miserly monopolist.

Such, gentlemen, is the man whom it is my pleasing duty to present to you to-day, and whose health I now beg leave to propose. All of you are well aware of the energy, the ability, and perseverance displayed by Mr. Roach Smith in the pursuit of Antiquarian science. I am not unacquainted with his life of toil and anxiety. He has expended a large portion of his life in the collection of a Museum of Antiquities, unrivalled in interest, as bearing largely upon the early history of this country; and his whole conduct in its collection, and in his proposals for the disposal of it, have been marked by a spirit of the noblest independence and liberality. I still trust that that unrivalled collection may form part of our great National Museum, which it is so well calculated to adorn, and that its claims may not be ultimately disregarded.

Be that as it may, gentlemen, we are not the men to

make light of the claims of an old friend and countryman to our respect and sympathy, more especially when we think that those claims have received but a scanty recognition elsewhere; and it is in the fullest assurance that I have only echoed your feelings in the few words which I have now said, that I now give you the health of Mr. Charles Roach Smith, a long and a happy life to him, and good health to pursue his laborious and important career."

This speech was frequently interrupted by applause, and at its conclusion was received with enthusiastic and prolonged cheers.

Mr. Roach Smith, in reply, spoke to the following purport; he said he felt his position on this occasion to be of such uncommon occurrence, and to be marked with a distinction of so rare and flattering a nature, that it would be wrong in him were he not to feel its importance, and to receive the high honour it conveyed with full appreciation and with gratitude. His lot in life had separated him a good deal from his countrymen; a course of toil and anxiety (as their Chairman had feelingly and correctly termed it), had prevented him from visiting the land of his birth, save at long intervals and for brief periods. When, therefore, he stood among them, almost personally a stranger, to receive such a welcome as that which greeted him, he could but feel proud to think he had not been unnoticed by them, and that he had won their approval and such high consideration. And when he looked around him, and perceived there assembled the representatives of the influence, of the wealth, of the intelligence, and of the industry of the Island, he could not mistake the genuineness nor the moral force of the honour conferred upon him. Not upon himself alone would fall all the pleasure they had bestowed; there were others

absent who would share it ; and some present whose generous hearts would respond to their kindness to him, colleagues whose friendship had been long tried, who in seeing him honoured would feel themselves honoured also, for to them, and to their regard and sympathy, he owed much of whatever success his efforts had attained in the researches that had been alluded to. When he reflected how much pursuits such as he had devoted the greater part of his life to, were advanced by the energies and cooperation of others, he could but waive all personal pretensions, and regard himself, for the moment, as the impersonation of a science which was making way towards public favour.

The science of archæology has been disregarded in this country ; and even now its claims had not been generally allowed, although where history commenced there also it began. It is a science which surpasses all others, as the study of man himself exceeds all other studies. If we take what are accepted as the best histories of our own country, we shall find that they concentrate several centuries into as many pages ; centuries from which date so much of the civilization we enjoy, and of the institutions under which we flourish ; annalists and historians these centuries may be barren in, but they have left many vast and valuable memorials, passed over by our writers, and disregarded by our Governments, who seek in foreign countries the monuments of foreign people to the exclusion of what most concerns us, the remains of our forefathers. It is the province of the English archæologist to find out, to study, and to explain these and similar remains. He (Mr. Roach Smith) had just left one of, if not the most glorious of, our ancient monuments, to visit the graves of the Saxons upon Chessell Down, and (he might

add) to receive the hospitable reception they had given him. He alluded to the great Roman Wall, which crossed England from Newcastle to Carlisle, and was at one time the barrier of Roman Britain against the barbarians of the north. To the world at large it still remained an unexplored mine of historical materials, which could only be extracted by the labours of the archæologist; materials belonging to the first four centuries of the history of our country. Extend the view for this period over England and Scotland, and survey the net-work of roads, fortresses, and towns, spread over the land by the conquerors of the world; examine what yet is left, and you will be convinced how much that is unwritten may be supplied in the works themselves. But our Governments are ignorant of their value; as ignorant as the Corporation of London has hitherto been of their own special monuments, just referred to by our worthy Chairman.

Not only does archæology assist, correct, and illustrate history, but it gives a clearer insight into the institutions, the habits, the customs, and the arts of our forefathers, than can be obtained by history alone. It is more than a speculative pursuit; it is a science from which the greatest benefits may be derived, not merely in correcting errors and giving sounder views on matters of history, but also in every-day life, in the arts, and in all those industrial professions which administer to our comfort and luxury. There is a history in every object we see around us, and we heighten the pleasure we feel in them when we know their origin, and trace them in various stages down to our own times. In many arts we have retrograded: a knowledge of their former condition is the first step to their recovery or improvement. As an illustration, he would select one suggested by a toast given that evening;

and it would show how great practical advantages would arise from a better study of the wisdom of the past. Our gallant army, as they all knew, had suffered severely from having no road between the camp at Sebastopol and the huts and stores at Balaklava; to this cause has been ascribed the deaths of some thousands of brave men during the inclemencies of last winter. It is obvious that the troops, efficient as they were in other respects, were incompetent to make a road, though it made the difference to them between life and death. The modern soldiers are warriors and nothing more. The Roman soldiers were warriors, masons, carpenters, and road-makers, at the same time. Upon the enemy's territory there were added to their arms axes and spades; and, trained to such work, a road such as our troops needed and could not make, would have been constricted by them out of hand. Here wisdom gained from the experience of the past might have been made the means of saving the lives of thousands of our countrymen.

A great moral lesson is also taught by the study of archæology. The vocation of the antiquary is among the relics of the past. It is impossible to be continually a witness of the decay of the works of man, to see the overthrow of cities and temples, and in the scanty contents of the grave to mark the decay of nations, and the fleeting nature of generation after generation, without reflecting with feelings of humility on our own transitory state; such reflections lower human pride, check jealousies, and generate charity, toleration, and benevolence. If archæology does not lead to our improvement, then it cannot be said to be properly studied or understood.

Returning to himself, he thanked them sincerely for their kindness. They had conferred upon him an honourable

distinction, such as no wealth or worldly influence could command. It was the investiture of a pure and moral Order of Merit, which he should always wear near his heart and cherish among his best affections (cheers).

The Chairman next proposed the health of Lord Haytesbury, the Governor of the Island, which was drunk with acclamation.

Mr. A'Court Holmes, in returning thanks for the compliment paid to his father, said, that in all things bearing on the prosperity of the island, as well as in any researches which tended to illustrate its history, no one could take a greater interest than his father; and he thanked them sincerely for shewing him this mark of their regard. Mr. Holmes then proposed the health of their chairman, Sir John Simeon. It was given with a cordial "three times three."

The Chairman having returned thanks, and expressed the gratification he felt in presiding over such a meeting, said, he had now to propose the healths of the gentlemen who had come from London to join them in this demonstration of regard for their guest. They were men eminent in various branches of archæological science, and in literature: with this toast he could not refrain from naming Mr. Thomas Wright. The toast was received with cheers.

Mr. Wright, in thanking the company for the consideration and attention shewn them, observed, that he could answer for his friends, as well as for himself, in assuring them how pleased they felt in being present on this occasion. No one, perhaps, knew Mr. Roach Smith better than he did. He had been associated with him intimately for many years, and, therefore, could confidently speak of him. One cause of this intimacy was the British Archæological Association, which they had

founded, and for the support of which they had for many years conjointly laboured.\* Wherever work was to be done, there Mr. Roach Smith was always foremost with energy and good-will; he was backward only in questions of precedence for place and for honours (cheers).

Mr. Apsley Pellatt said, that duty impelled him to say a few words, to express the gratitude they felt to the gentleman who had entertained them so hospitably upon Chessell Down that morning; and who had so liberally countenanced the researches in which they had partaken with so much pleasure and profit. Before, however, they drank the health of Mr. Holmes, he could not refrain from bearing testimony to the obligation the City of London was under to Mr. Roach Smith for the labour and pecuniary outlay he had expended in collecting his valuable Museum; from this Museum he (Mr. Pellatt) had obtained important information; and he hoped that either the nation or the City of London would secure the collection for the public on the liberal terms at which it was offered (cheers). He would now propose, and drink, the health of Mr. A'Court Holmes. The toast was drunk with loud applause.

Mr. Holmes returned thanks. He said, that although he did not assume for himself a profound acquaintance with the science of Archæology, yet he was much interested in the discoveries which had been made; he was fully aware of the light they shed on the history of the island, and he was confident that so intelligent and competent a man as Mr. Hillier would not fail to turn these discoveries to the best advantage, and to public benefit, in his forth-coming work, the "History of the Isle of Wight"

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\* It should be understood, that Mr. Roach Smith and Mr. Wright, as well as others of the conductors of this Society, are no longer members of it.

(cheers). He was pleased to make the acquaintance of the gentlemen from London; pleased in joining to receive Mr. Roach Smith, who had shed lustre and honour on the island of which he was a native (cheers).

The Chairman said, there was a toast he felt bound to propose from the chair. It was with gratification and pride he mentioned the name of his friend, George Hillier; and he felt sure the "History of the Isle of Wight," on which he was engaged, would far surpass all former county histories; that it would correct very many mistakes, and do full justice to the island. He proposed the health of Mr. Hillier; and announced, that Mr. Holmes wished to add the designation of "the future historian of the Isle of Wight." This compliment paid to Mr. Hillier was sanctioned by unanimous and hearty applause.

Mr. Hillier said, he was doubly grateful, both to Mr. Holmes and to Sir John Simeon, for the confidence they had placed in him, in granting, so liberally, permission to prosecute his researches upon their property, and for kindness shewn him at all times. He acknowledged the compliment paid him that evening; and, recognising as he did a zealous local antiquary, then present, who had taken part in the proceedings of the day, and who was always ready to forward the cause of science, he was sure it would be acceptable to the company, if he proposed the health of Mr. Barrow (cheers).

Mr. Barrow replied, that he felt highly flattered at the manner in which, on such an occasion, his health had been proposed and drank. He and his colleagues at Ryde were always desirous of promoting the objects of science; and it was with much delight the Philosophical and Scientific Society looked forward to receive Mr. Roach Smith and his friends, to-morrow evening, at Ryde.

Mr. Leonard Holmes A'Court, with the sanction of the chair, gave the health of the Vice-Chairman, the Mayor of Newport, who had so cordially and promptly concurred in the object of this meeting, and given it the benefit of his official and of his private character (cheers).

Mr. Estcourt having returned thanks, assured the company of the perfect sincerity and pleasure with which he joined them in aiding the object of that meeting.

Mr. Wright rose and said, there was among them a gentleman from whom he and his friends had received much attention during their visit;\* a gentleman who had distinguished himself by his acquirements in local literature and antiquities, and who possessed the disposition to communicate his knowledge freely. He begged to propose the health of Mr. John Henry Hearn. The toast was received and drank with much good feeling. Mr. Hearn having responded,

Mr. Roach Smith said he had received the permission of the chair to propose the health and prosperity of the Agriculturists of the Isle of Wight. Himself the son of a farmer, he felt particularly pleased that it had fallen to him, on this occasion, to be associated with them in thus recognising the importance of such a class; and in saying how much he felt the attention of those friends and relatives, who, in the midst of harvest, when time was so precious, had made leisure to be present with him that evening (cheers). He would not trouble them, at so late an hour, with attempting to shew what bearing archæology could have upon agriculture; but he might observe, that,

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\* On the preceding evening Mr. Hearn had entertained the visitors from London with an exhibition of his own and other unpublished collections, among which were MSS. of great local interest.

even with all the improvements of modern science, something useful might be gained from the past, recorded by ancient writers. How the land was tilled formerly, and what it produced, it could be but beneficial to know; as well as the state of mechanical science applied to agriculture. It would be found, perhaps, that very many supposed modern inventions were but the reproductions of works invented many centuries ago. He would, then, give, "the health and prosperity of the Agriculturists of the Island." The toast was drank with cheers.

Mr. Frederick Roach, on the part of himself and the other agriculturists present, returned thanks. Referring to the remarks made by his cousin, he quite concurred with him in thinking that we should not wholly limit our thoughts to the present and future, but should give a share of our consideration to the past. In an agricultural point of view, it was curious to look back and contemplate the state of the land in past ages; to see what was now down and copse-land had formerly been ploughed and tilled, and *vice versa*. Some of the modern scientific applications for fertilising the land were of a very remote origin, and many supposed inventions were but the revival of old discoveries. Some years since, he and his brother bought, in Suffolk, a drill, which was considered the perfection of that description of agricultural implement, was lauded as a new and clever invention, and sold for £50. When it reached Arreton, his father, having examined it, said he was glad to see that some of the spirit as well as the blood of his grandfather, Edward Roach, had descended to his great-grandchildren, as he, Edward Roach (*circa* 1720 to 1756), who was a great experimentalist in draining and drilling, commonly used precisely such a drill as they had brought home (laughter and cheers). Mr. Roach

made some further observations to the same effect, and then proposed the health of the Clergy, coupled with the name of the Rev. G. H. Conner, who returned thanks.

The health of the Ladies of the Isle of Wight having been drank at the suggestion of Mr. Corner, coffee was served, and the party, about midnight, separated; and thus closed the proceedings of a day which will be long remembered by those who personally shared them.

#### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29.

Most of the London visitors accepted an invitation to breakfast, given them by Mr. Faulkner, of Shide Hill House. They then walked over St. George's Down to Arreton, and inspected the fine old Manor House on the farm belonging to C. Wykeham Martin, Esq., and tenanted by Mr. Frederick Roach. The house is one of the best of the many manorial residences of the sixteenth and early part of the seventeenth centuries which are to be found in the island. Its date, placed over the front entrance, is 1639. Two of the rooms contain some good examples of oak carving. Among a collection of coins which was inspected, are several found in the Isle of Wight, of which the most remarkable are, one of Libius Severus, in gold; and one, also in gold, of Maximian, recently found near Chale. The party having lunched with Mr. Roach, returned to Newport; and, in the evening, departed for the

#### CONVERSAZIONE AT RYDE.

A Special General Meeting of the Members of the Isle of Wight Philosophical and Scientific Society was held at eight o'clock, at the Masonic Hall, John Street, the Society's apartments being too small for the number assem-

bled. Two hundred and fifty invitations were issued. Among those who attended were:—Col. F. Vernon Harcourt, M.P., Vice-President of the Society, Lord Downes, Sir Augustus Clifford, Sir John Harding (the Queen's Advocate), Sir John Burgoyne, Rev. Edward Scott, Vicar of Carisbrooke, Rev. A. Conner, of Newport, the Mayor of Newport, Mr. J. H. Hearn, Mr. F. Blake, of Newport, Mr. A. J. Hambrough, Mr. R. Popham White, of Wootton, Sir James Caldwell, Mr. J. C. D. Fullarton, Rev. Dr. Ferguson, Mr. W. H. Gillson, Mr. Frederick and Master Reginald Roach, Mr. Cramer, Dr. T. B. Salter, Mr. John Bicknell, Mr. Alexander Bicknell, Mr. John Adkins Barton, of Newport, Mr. John Lock, of Nodehill, Mr. Ernest P. Wilkins, of Newport, Mr. R. W. Bloxam, Rev. C. E. R. Robinson, Mr. G. W. Scarle, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Guichet, Mr. Blakeney, Rev. D. J. Heath, Mr. McLachlan, Rev. H. Boyer, Mr. J. Bicknell, Captain Marshall, R.N., Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Knowles, Mr. Meeres, Mr. Oliver, M. Pullen, Mr. Le Marchant Thomas, Mr. Treakell, Rev. A. J. Wade, Mr. Webster, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Phené, Rev. C. Morris, Captain Martin, Mr. Martin, Captain Katon, R.N., Mr. F. Scarle, Mr. E. Lecky, Mr. John Wavell, Mr. Eldridge, Mr. Bass, Dr. Mark Brown, Mr. Pittis, Mr. Riley, Rev. C. Danbury, Rev. J. Baines, Mr. C. M. Jones, Rev. Mr. Simpson, Mr. C. Woodward, Rev. W. T. Marsh, Rev. Mr. Dursley, Mr. Swift, M.P., Mr. Hillier, Mr. Wright, Mr. Corner, Mr. Fairholt, Mr. Barrow (Honourary Secretary), etc., etc.

Among the exhibitions were some Celtic urns and other remains discovered in tumuli upon Ashe Down, by Mr. Barrow and other Members of the Society; the Anglo-Saxon antiquities discovered by Mr. Hillier; and proof engravings (executed by Mr. Fairholt) of the Kentish Saxon remains discovered by the Rev. Bryan Faussett,

and now in the museum of Mr. Joseph Mayer, of Liverpool.

The company being seated, Colonel Harcourt, who had taken the chair, rose and said:—I congratulate the Council and Members of the Society, and the Visitors, on the occasion of their assembling this evening. I congratulate you because we are met to receive and render honour to one of the most eminent antiquaries of the day, one who has earned a reputation more than European—Mr. Charles Roach Smith. It is with pleasure I introduce him to you. Although hitherto personally a stranger to many of us, his name and works are not unknown in the Island. The Island may boast of him as a son, and we as a countryman; and well may the Island be proud of one who has laboured so diligently, so perseveringly, in the cause of science and literature, and who has, in the words of a well-known and eminent antiquary, ‘devoted a life and a fortune in the pursuits of archæology,’ the importance of which science in enabling us to comprehend more clearly the habits and manners of our ancestors I need not insist on; it is now all but universally admitted. To one of Mr. Roach Smith’s achievements I must specially allude. Regardless of labour and money, he has saved from destruction, in the City of London, antiquities which, under his care, have justly assumed a character of national importance; the collection is unrivalled, and public opinion and the judgment of the most distinguished antiquaries, concur in certifying its claims to the appreciation of the nation. I feel I can do but little justice to the position I this evening hold. I see upon the table matters of much local interest which will engage your attention, and on which some of the company will favour us with remarks; and Mr. Smith will probably give us some informa-

tion on his own researches. I will, therefore, conclude with introducing to you our visitor Mr. Charles Roach Smith; and I express to him in your name and in my own, that which we all must wish him, a full and ample reward for his years of labour and self-denial; and that he may live long to reap that harvest of peace and happiness which his probity and industry command. (Cheers.)

Mr. Roach Smith replied, that he received the high compliment paid him that evening with a deep sense of the honour it conveyed; he trusted he should appreciate it to the full extent of its importance in every point of view, while he could but be especially flattered by such a testimonial from his countrymen, in the land of his birth. Had he pursued through life a more selfish course, and devoted those energies, for which they had given him so much credit, to the acquirement of worldly power and position, he might, perhaps, have returned to his native land laden with the favours of external fortune; but he should never have earned such priceless honours as they had given him; and were it in his power, with all his experience of the world to enter upon it again, he should again accept the path of toil and difficulty such as he had chosen, and his riches should be what they now are,—the approbation of his countrymen, and their assurance that his life had not been profitless to others. (Cheers.)

Mr. Roach Smith said, it would be quite agreeable to him to do what the President had suggested, and give them some clear notions of the precise nature of his collection of London antiquities; but he feared he should fail in doing so away from his museum, and without that necessary preparation of diagrams and drawings, or an exhibition of types of the objects themselves, which alone rendered a verbal description fully intelligible. He, however,

pointed out a few of its more important features, and observed, that the general disregard shewn by our governments to the national antiquities was instanced by the history of those of London. The people of London had, at least up to the present time, equally neglected them; and although they afforded such remarkable illustrations of the ancient condition of the metropolis and of its inhabitants, they were better understood and appreciated in any part of the kingdom, and, perhaps, in any city in Europe, than in London itself. After referring to some of the more remarkable of our national monuments, he drew attention to the fine Roman architectural remains at Portchester, Pevensey, Lymne, and other places on the south and eastern coasts, as instances of the little regard paid even to such remarkable monuments so close at hand and almost daily before our eyes. These were the bulwarks of Roman Britain, erected to defend the province against the incursions of a people destined to rule the world — the Saxons. These great fortresses, which protected Britain only for a time, are connected with the early history of the people from whom we are descended (at least in part), and to whom we owe so much that is good in our Constitution; the people to whom belonged the beautiful ornaments and other remains from Chessell Down, now upon the table before them. In these remains, the future historian of the Island, Mr. Hillier, would find materials for a new chapter, illustrative of the history of the country at an early and obscure period, hitherto passed over by historians in the most cursory and unsatisfactory manner. The Anglo-Saxon antiquities of the Isle of Wight must be especially studied in connection with those discovered in Kent, as both come from the same origin. The historian Beda states, that the Saxons

of the Isle of Wight and of the opposite coast, and the Saxons of Kent, all came from Jutland. It is an interesting inquiry to ascertain how far the remains from Chessell Down agree in character with those found in other parts of Hampshire, and how far both agree with Kentish Saxon antiquities. He believed it would be found that there would be many striking points of resemblance confirming the assertion of Beda.

But, on such an occasion, he could not monopolise the time of the company. There were, doubtless, several present who would wish to ask questions on the exhibitions. Mr. Wright, who felt as much interest in the subject as himself, would probably desire to make some remarks. On resuming his seat, Mr. Roach Smith again expressed, with much warmth of feeling, his sense of the honour done him by the Isle of Wight Philosophical and Scientific Society.

Mr. Wright, after stating the pleasure he had received in inspecting the Celtic barrows upon the downs, and the Saxon cemetery at Chessell, proceeded at considerable length to point out the leading peculiarities of Saxon antiquities, illustrating his observations by reference to those discovered by Mr. Hillier, and by the engravings of those exhumed in Kent by the Rev. Bryan Faussett.

Mr. Hillier, at the request of the President, made some observations on the position of the graves upon Chessell down; and, in reply to a question put by Mr. Bass, said it would be for Mr. A'Court Holmes and himself to consider the ultimate location of the antiquities he had discovered.

Mr. Webster observed, that although he was almost a stranger to the company there assembled, still he had an interest in the island, for he had lately come to reside at Sandown. He felt unwilling that relics such as these

should be lost to the island; he felt they ought to have a depository wherein they could be safely kept; and he hoped that such an opportunity as the present would not be lost for preserving, intact, objects which went so far to elucidate the history of the island.

Mr. J. H. Hearn could not avoid, after the observations which had fallen from Mr. Webster, saying a few words on a project which he had formed for instituting an Archaeological Society, respecting which he had spoken to several landed proprietors in the island, and from whom he had received promises of support. He considered that no more desirable spot than Carisbrooke Castle could be found as a receptacle for all the antiquities found in the island.

Dr. T. Bell Salter was rather astonished at the proposal for establishing another Society, when that which was this evening assembled to do honour to their respected guest, and other visitors, had, for one of its chief objects, Antiquarian pursuits, and the formation of a Museum of Local Antiquities. The thing, therefore, which Mr. Hearn advocated, was already done. Let the proprietary and others of the island gentry and visitors join heart and hand with this Society, and the desired end would doubtless be gained.

The Honorary Secretary said he was sorry that anything of the character of private business should have been discussed at a meeting assembled that evening for the sole purpose of doing honour to their talented visitor and other friends; but his silence might be construed into an approval of the formation of another Society: to this he was quite adverse. Having been, from the commencement of this Society, its official organ, he had found the difficulty of maintaining it in its integrity. It combined

within its sphere many objects—science, natural history, and antiquarian research. And why were these various objects all combined? Simply, for the purpose of meeting, if possible, the tastes of all. The island was too small for a division of interests: there must be some combination or else all must fail. The nucleus of an Antiquarian Society was there—the nucleus of a Museum already existed. Let all jealousy cease; let all unite, and they could not fail to produce what every one admitted to be necessary—a Museum worthy of the island and its rich resources.

The President then proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Roach Smith, and to Mr. Wright, for the descriptive remarks they had made. The proposition having been unanimously accepted,

Mr. Corner, after expressing the delight which he had experienced during his visit, and his concurrence in the view taken by the Honourary Secretary of uniting all interests, passed a high eulogium upon the President's ability and kindness in filling the chair and doing honour to his valued friend, and concluded by proposing a vote of thanks to Colonel Harcourt, which, seconded by Lord Downes, was agreed to with acclamation.

The company then intermixed in the meeting and refreshment rooms; and separated at about eleven o'clock.

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# ROMAN LONDON.

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*To follow the delivery of the JOURNAL of the REV. BRYAN FAUSSETT, the printing of which is now advancing towards completion.*

## THE ROMAN ANTIQUITIES OF LONDON :

To be printed in quarto, with numerous engravings and woodcuts, including VIEWS OF THE ROMAN WALL OF LONDON, and other ARCHITECTURAL REMAINS, MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS, TESSELLATED PAVEMENTS, WALL PAINTINGS, SCULPTURES, STATUETTES IN BRONZE, the COLOSSAL bronze head of HADRIAN, IMPLEMENTS and UTENSILS, SEPULCHRAL REMAINS, COINS, POTTERY, and MISCELLANEOUS OBJECTS. The Pavements and Wall Paintings will be executed in Colours.

It will be printed by subscription, and the issue will be rigidly limited to Subscribers, to whom it is considered that the price of the volume will not exceed Two Guineas. Moreover, in justice to the Subscribers, means will be taken to prevent the work being sold, in any form, at a reduced price.

As the impression will be regulated by the number of copies subscribed for, C. R. Smith would feel obliged by being favoured with the names of such as intend subscribing, as early as possible.

5, *Liverpool Street, City, London,*  
*September 25th, 1855.*

